

Sunny and Warmer

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending July 4, according to the USDA-NASS-Michigan Statistical Office. Farmers across much of the State reported improved weather through much of the week. Sunshine, warmer temperatures and limited rainfall helped farmers make progress over the week. Crops responded well to the improved conditions. For the seven days ending July 5, precipitation amounts ranged from 0.33 inches in the east central Lower Peninsula to 1.35 inches in the western Upper Peninsula. While temperatures increased substantially, averages were still near to slightly below normal, ranging from 4 degrees below normal in the Eastern Upper Peninsula to normal in the central Lower Peninsula. “This may have been the best week in the last two months. We had good temperatures and sunshine,” reported a farmer in the west central. A grower in the south central echoed the sentiment, “Crops made remarkable progress this week. The moderate temperatures and generous sunshine really helped.”

Field Crops

Warmer weather across the State improved field crop development and allowed producers to catch up on their fieldwork. Field activities last week included cultivating and spraying. Dry weather also allowed the first cutting of **hay** to be cut and baled. Hay fields cut prior to last week were greening up again and should have a decent second cutting. The **corn** crop was coming along. There was a variation in size of corn plants due to a lot of late planting and wet spots in the fields. Corn plants can range from 3 inches to 3 feet in the same field. **Soybean** planting was wrapping up. Earlier water damage in the soybean crop was now showing up. Some late soybean planting was still talking place. Overall, soybeans were emerging well. The **wheat** crop faced a variety of obstacles over the week. High levels of armyworms in several districts were reported. Head scab appeared, and many farmers were concerned about vomitoxin. The level of vomitoxin was unknown. The crop was maturing quickly in most areas. **Dry bean** planting neared completion. Three-fourths of the crop was emerged. Operators reported that the **sugarbeet** crop continued to improve.

Soil moisture for week ending 07/04/04

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	0	10	80	10
Subsoil	0	5	84	11

Crop condition for week ending 07/04/04

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	2	9	33	43	13
Barley	2	20	44	32	2
Corn	5	16	39	34	6
Oats	5	9	43	35	8
Pasture	0	5	30	53	12
Soybeans	3	13	44	34	6
Winter Wheat	3	9	28	52	8

Fruit

Tart cherry harvest began in the southwest. Some orchards suffered a lot of cherry leaf spot damage while others were unaffected. Harvest started at several farms in the southeast. West central tart cherries were changing color. **Sweet cherry** harvest continued in the southwest and was underway in the southeast. Many growers have an excellent crop this year. The west central crop was looking very good too. Fruit was changing color, and some early harvest will start soon. Southeast **apples** continued to size very well. Most Red Delicious apples were 1.5 to 1.75 inches in diameter, and other varieties neared 2.0 inches. Cedar-apple rust showed up in some southwest plantings. New fireblight symptoms continued to appear, but the cool weather has slowed the disease. Codling moth trap catches were down in the northwest, and mite populations were generally low. Early **peaches** were coloring in the southwest. Peaches were growing well in the southeast; most were around 1.75 inches in diameter. Southwest **apricots** were coloring. **Blueberry** harvest was underway on early varieties in the southwest. In the southeast, they continued to size well. Harvest of early blueberry varieties started in the west central. **Strawberry** renovation was complete in the southwest, and new growth was appearing. In the southeast, harvest was complete. In the southwest, Concord and Niagara **grapes** were nearing berry touch. Wine grape berries were buckshot-sized and at berry shatter. In the northwest, foliage and crop development looked good in most vineyards.

Vegetables

Warmer weather and sunshine aided vegetable growth over the week. **Snap bean** planting continued. Emerged plants looked good. Some early plantings were harvested in the southwest. Later planted **potatoes** were emerging quickly. Several districts reported early plantings in bloom. Some potato beetles and aphids were reported. **Sweet corn** ranged from near harvest in the southeast to just knee high in the west central. **Tomatoes** responded well to the warm temperatures. **Carrot** planting wrapped up, nearly two weeks behind normal in the west central. Some Cercespora blight was reported. **Cabbage** harvest moved along in the southeast. **Cantaloups** and **watermelons** continued to improve with the favorable weather. **Peppers** were in bloom in the southwest but still showed some stress from the cool temperatures. **Celery** harvest was just starting in the southwest. Early **zucchini** harvest continued in the southwest and was expected to pick up in the coming week. Harvest of the crop will begin soon in the southeast.

Crop progress for week ending 07/04/04

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
Corn, height	21	16	21	27
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, first cutting	82	61	91	87
Dry beans, planted	96	87	98	99
Dry beans, emerged	76	52	89	90
Oats, headed	73	53	65	79
Oats, turning yellow	7	0	3	20
Soybeans, emerged	95	87	97	98
Strawberries, harvested	97	90	86	94
Tart cherries, harvested	14	2	13	NA
Winter wheat, turning yellow	79	46	50	79

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 07/05/04 ¹												
Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2004	2003	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	81	45		655	777		1.39	1.88	3.32	12.34		
Marquette	84	42		583	752		0.91	1.76	2.97	11.78		
Stephenson	86	45		767	928		2.21	2.72	4.12	13.43		
Western UP	86	40	-3	641	788	748	1.35	1.82	3.22	11.01	9.75	3.42
Cornell	87	44		582	803		0.55	1.09	2.18	8.88		
Sault St Marie	75	45		458	718		1.11	1.78	2.81	10.24		
Eastern UP	87	37	-4	524	695	599	1.13	1.76	2.73	8.55	9.23	3.19
Beulah	86	49		807	854		1.48	1.60	3.43	14.34		
Lake City	83	46		835	843		0.86	1.09	2.50	14.17		
Old Mission	86	46		765	810		0.59	0.99	2.34	11.44		
Pellston	84	40		738	819		0.32	0.69	1.55	9.11		
Northwest	86	40	-2	762	805	871	0.81	1.05	2.41	11.66	8.78	2.99
Alpena	77	41		747	766		0.79	0.86	2.11	9.30		
Houghton Lake	82	45		877	906		0.55	0.77	2.04	12.72		
Rogers City	84	46		796	775		0.74	1.08	2.35	10.84		
Northeast	84	41	-1	823	845	832	0.69	1.03	2.28	11.33	8.71	3.18
Fremont	82	56		984	999		1.14	1.36	2.23	12.99		
Hart	84	53		915	900		1.41	2.25	4.66	15.82		
Muskegon	84	57		996	982		1.11	1.84	5.35	16.79		
West Central	84	53	-1	945	943	973	1.31	1.84	4.59	15.67	9.23	2.54
Alma	84	53		1,086	993		0.47	1.36	4.57	13.06		
Big Rapids	85	52		1,030	951		0.50	1.80	5.43	14.22		
Central	85	52	0	1,060	968	1,030	0.48	1.47	4.90	14.40	9.72	2.97
Bad Axe	85	50		930	806		0.32	1.62	3.20	12.75		
Pigeon	85	49		917	835		0.30	1.63	3.76	14.59		
Saginaw	84	55		1,052	953		0.19	1.14	3.12	13.12		
Standish	84	49		927	863		0.23	1.11	2.90	13.39		
East Central	85	49	-2	937	872	1,010	0.33	1.38	3.70	13.64	8.71	2.92
Fennville	86	52		1,071	936		0.82	1.26	3.45	12.16		
Grand Rapids	85	57		1,238	1,022		1.48	2.07	4.40	16.81		
Holland	85	54		1,097	975		1.42	1.98	4.09	11.12		
South Bend, IN	87	52		1,338	1,117		1.19	1.50	6.45	13.79		
Watervliet	85	54		1,170	1,013		1.25	1.64	7.05	14.09		
Southwest	87	49	-1	1,168	1,033	1,108	1.26	1.91	5.11	14.29	10.53	3.09
Belding	83	55		1,111	970		0.65	1.21	3.62	13.34		
Coldwater	86	50		1,150	1,006		2.25	2.70	5.91	12.93		
Lansing	84	55		1,168	1,019		0.62	1.10	3.54	14.59		
South Central	87	50	-1	1,163	1,032	1,105	0.88	1.20	3.87	13.85	10.35	3.22
Detroit	86	58		1,274	1,113		0.34	0.42	3.06	11.94		
Flint	83	54		1,221	1,057		0.45	0.74	2.50	11.61		
Romeo	87	52		1,141	971		0.75	0.87	2.70	13.30		
Tipton	86	48		1,158	1,016		0.18	0.33	4.43	11.52		
Toledo, OH	87	52		1,357	1,135		0.08	0.27	3.75	9.77		
Southeast	87	48	-1	1,186	1,061	1,074	0.58	0.93	4.12	12.74	10.00	3.11

¹ Issued by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

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